

G20 PATHOLOGIST SUSPENDED

Doctor in the Ian Tomlinson case faces investigation

The pathologist who first examined the body of Ian Tomlinson, the newspaper vendor killed by police at the G20 demonstration at the Bank of England, has been suspended from working for the Home Office and is under investigation for professional misconduct.

Dr Freddy Patel has been suspended by the Pathology Delivery Board after it emerged he does not have a contract with a police force and was not a member of the Forensic Pathology Service, a group of specialist pathologists assigned to investigate suspicious deaths in London. The discovery came after he carried out the forensic post mortem into the death Tomlinson and wrongly diagnosed it as a heart attack.

The suspension means he is banned from undertaking any more work on behalf of the police or Home Office. Investigators want to know why Dr Patel conducted the post mortem when it appears he does not currently hold a police contract.

The breaches were uncovered during a routine review of pathologists by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). It discovered Dr Patel's contract

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LENS CAP NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



Here's a cop laying flowers to commemorate two recent deaths in police custody. Surprised? You shouldn't be. The dead were two Nottinghamshire police dogs locked up by the fuzz in a police car on a hot day. An RSPCA investigation has begun and an independent vet will carry out a post-mortem examination. Just shows.

SOAS CLEANERS DEPORTATIONS UPDATE

More news is emerging of the dehumanising and brutal effects of the arrest and detention last month of nine cleaners by immigration officials and riot police in collusion with cleaning contractors ISS at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

One of the cleaners targeted, who was already traumatised by the ordeal, arrived back in Bogota, Colombia, just 48 hours after the raid, still wearing the same clothes she was arrested in and with just 75 pence in her pocket.

Disorientated and distressed, she was simply dumped hundreds of miles from her home town without any concern as to how she could get back to her family.

Rosa Perez, was deported on Tuesday 30th June without being given the 72 hours

notice that is required. She was given no opportunity to say goodbye to workmates who had been visiting her in detention or to receive the collections that SOAS staff had been making to help with her return.

Another of the nine, Marina Silva, remains in detention at Yarl's Wood where detainees are on hunger strikes in protest against the appalling conditions and also at the decision to freeze their bank accounts containing wages that they have already earned.

Marina, who is 63, has claimed asylum because her husband was murdered in an honour killing at home and she was threatened until she left. Having lost the breadwinner and in fear, Marina eventually came to live and work in the UK a few years ago.

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

NEWSPAPER HACKS: The police are to examine claims of widespread mobile phone hacking by the *News of the World*.

A pause here for you to get your breath back. The bitterly jealous *Guardian* says the *News of the World's* reporters paid private investigators to hack into "thousands" of phones, many owned by politicians and celebrities.

Once again Dr Watson is called upon to treat his old detective companion for constipation. Fear not for investigation is afoot.

Met Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson has ordered a senior officer to "establish the facts" of the case. Sir Paul said Assistant Commissioner John Yates would "look into that detail". Aha, the same John Yates who couldn't prove Tony Blair sold honours then.

GRIFFIN STILL MAD SHOCK: BNP leader Nick Griffin has come up with a new gaffe. In an interview with this week's edition of BBC Parliament's *The Record Europe*, he said: "If there's measures to set up some kind of force or to help, say, the Italians set up a force which actually blocks the Mediterranean then we'd support that.

"But the only measure, sooner or later, which is going to stop immigration and stop large numbers of sub-Saharan Africans dying on the way to get over here is to get very tough with those coming over. Frankly, they need to sink several of those boats."

The interviewer, namby pamby liberal BBC Correspondent Shirin Wheeler, said: "I don't think the EU is in the business of murdering people at sea". To which Griffin replied: "I didn't say anyone should be murdered at sea – I say boats should be sunk, they can throw them a life raft and they can go back to Libya."

SWINE FLU UPDATE: Fourteen people in the UK are thought to have died after contracting swine flu, the government has announced.

Medical officials said the figures did not mean all those who had died had died as a direct result of swine flu, but that many had had the virus.

There are 335 people in hospital in England with swine flu, of which 43 are in critical care, they said. The UK now has the third highest number of swine flu cases in the world – 9,718 – after the US and Mexico.

INTEREST RATES: The Bank of England's interest rate setters have kept the cost of borrowing unchanged at 0.5% for the fourth month in a row. It added it was not planning to extend its quantitative easing scheme under which it creates money to buy bonds in order to stimulate the economy. It will continue with its current plan to spend £125 billion.

LENS CAP A TIGGER



In particular an Amur or Siberian Tigger, Those readers who do not also subscribe to Molecular Ecology may have missed their article explaining that although 500 of the world's biggest cat remain in the wild there genetic diversity has been reduced to an effective population of 35. Now while Freedom is primarily concerned with human freedom as Martin Niemoller so nearly put it, "first they came for the tiggers..."

Bricks not bombs

This month has seen British military deaths in Afghanistan overtake those in Iraq. As of 10th July, 'coalition' deaths in Afghanistan stand at 1,237. Militarily that's not bad, only 10% of Soviet deaths during a similar period of occupation. It's still well behind the total Iraq war figure of 4,639. From the government's point of view it is the upward trend that is alarming – 47 deaths so far this year compared to 51 last year and 42 in 2007. Or three in 2002. A non-scientific study by this newspaper also reveals that, while casualties during the occupation of Germany in 1945 were far higher than Iraq and Afghanistan combined, seven years later they had dropped to the standard level of bar fights in Colchester on a Saturday night.

When British troops were deployed to Helmand province in 2005 the then Defence Secretary (wasn't Minister for War far more honest) Geoff Hoon famously said he hoped that not a bullet would be fired now the Chief of the Defence Staff Jock Stirrup (no, really) says that the Taliban are losing the war. This is the biggest fib since the WMS's in Iraq document, but Sir Jock has doubtless studied a fair amount of military history in his day and may have in mind the fate of General Halder, head of the German General Staff

during a difficult period the 1940s, who told his sour-faced boss too many home truths about the way the war was going.

So if we want an end to this pointless slaughter we will need to go it ourselves. The obvious example of this being possible is of course US involvement in Vietnam which was finally halted by domestic pressure after 55,000 American military deaths and at least two million Vietnamese. It is a valuable lesson to advocates of non-violence that it is the failure to use minimal force when it is needed that ends up with more violence not less. A big riot in London during the 'Million Muppet March' in February 2003 could have kept Britain out of the Iraq War and dissuaded further adventurism in Afghanistan for the price of a few broken windows in the West End and some coppers with sore noggins.

Sadly the folk of Afghanistan and Iraq would have been blasted by the Pentagon anyway without British help – unless the people of America had done something similar. The admittedly vast power of the military makes many people think nothing can be done about it but as the old saw goes you can do everything with bayonets except sit on them.



Wobblies report slams Olympic site

The IWW exposes the problems suffered by Olympic workers

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) have published a damning report on the poor work practices and management failures within London's Olympic construction site. The 12-page document, entitled *Olympic Dream or Workers Nightmare?*, details the problems and exposes the risks endured by those employed on the Stratford City Development section of the Olympic site where work is ongoing ready for the 2012 Games. The IWW interviewed many workers in the process of compiling the report and it is those views which form the backbone of their analysis.

The report reveals a systematic failure on behalf of Westfield, the company operating

the site, to ensure workers safety, widespread mismanagement and lack of resources in maintaining health and safety standards on one of the biggest single construction projects in Europe. The report goes on to examine at the role of the union and how workers can best effectively organise to defend their interests and safety at work.

The construction industry is traditionally a high risk one. Statistics show that last year one person a week was killed on a construction site. In 2007, seventy-seven people lost their lives working in construction, making it the most lethal year in construction for five years. Also during that year construction was the only major UK industry that witnessed a rise in the rates of non-fatal accidents with total injuries up from 10,849 in 2006/2007 to 11,120 in 2007/2008.

The report goes on to highlight the failings of the union and its role as a hindrance to

effective workers organisation and solidarity. UCATT, the only union recognised on the Olympic site, is accused of not representing its members and in fact siding with management in a 'partnership' deal that seeks to ameliorate workers grievances rather than address them.

Disturbingly, IWW representatives were harassed and followed while attempting to come on site and speak to the workers. There are also reports of regular visits by the police, who have harassed workers and sought to intimidate them with police dogs.

Not included in the report, although equally disturbing, is the fact that migrant construction workers are twice as likely to be killed as their UK counterparts. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) figures reveal that twelve migrant workers died in the construction industry in 2007–08, representing 17% of total fatalities in the sector, despite migrants only making up 8% of the workforce.

G20 pathologist suspended

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with the Metropolitan police expired in 2004 and was not renewed. A police spokeswoman said: "The contract went to the Forensic Pathology Service in December 2006 and he wasn't part of that group."

Dean Jones, the senior pathologist manager for the NPIA who is leading the investigation, said it was essential that forensic pathologists worked as part of a group practice to "ensure a high quality of performance".

He said: "Dr Patel hasn't been contracted to any police force for several years. He must know that he should be a member of a group practice."

Dr Patel was assigned to the Tomlinson post mortem by the City of London coroner

Paul Matthews. Matthews has so far refused to explain why he chose Patel to perform the task. It has also been confirmed City of London police were present at the post mortem done by Patel.

Patel has a history of controversial post mortem cases. A high profile case was Roger Sylvester who was killed in police custody in 1999. Patel carried out the autopsy on Sylvester, who died in St Anne's Hospital, Haringey, after being violently restrained by eight police officers. Mr Sylvester's death was again put down to natural causes by way of heart attack and the police were cleared of any responsibility. Following the coroners inquest Dr Patel was formally reprimanded

by the General Medical Council (GMC) for giving false and misleading information about the case to the press.

Dr Patel hit the headlines again in 2002 when he concluded that a woman who worked as a prostitute had died from heart disease after the body of Ms Sally White was discovered in a flat in north London. Although the victim's body was found locked away in a room and showed extensive evidence of violence, including bruising and a head injury, Patel ruled she died of natural causes and the criminal investigation was closed. The man who lived in the flat went on to kill two other women before being caught and confessing to all three murders.

NEWS

Public sector workers under threat

The head of the public spending watchdog has issued a stark warning to the country's six million public sector workers to expect a pay freeze over the coming months. The warning comes from Steve Bundred, chief executive of the Audit Commission, as government ministers look for solutions out of the current economic crisis and to fill the gaping financial black hole left by their billion pound bail-out package to the banking institutions. The Treasury has not ruled out pay freezes for all public sector workers, including health and education, which could spark off a new, more aggressive cycle of industrial unrest. Last year there was a wave of national strikes over pay negotiations involving local government workers as well as teachers, who went on strike for the first time in over 20 years, and NHS workers. In May 2009, the public sector showed an increased deficit on the current budget of £17.5 billion, 12 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with a deficit of £10.6 billion in May 2008.

There is also growing fear amongst workers that the current recession will give the government an opportunity to privatise more of the public services by outsourcing many of its key components. Already £1bn of government IT and communications contracts are up for grabs as Whitehall looks for suppliers to sign up to a new framework agreement. Buying Solutions, the procurement partner for the public sector, has issued the tender for up to £1bn-worth of IT deals with healthcare and back office work in central Whitehall departments being pinpointed as the focus for potential savings. Tom Riall, head of UK government business at Serco said: "The pressure on spending, and the need to find efficiencies while maintaining or improving standards, mean they will have to resort more to the



market." John McDonough, Chief Executive of Carillion, the building and construction group that generates much of its revenue from government projects as a leading player in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) told analysts "There will be huge opportunities as the squeeze goes on government spending". One estimate values the potential public services that could be outsourced at £95bn.

Public sector workers have long been at the forefront of government cut backs with successive administrations driving down costs by limiting pay and increasing the workload and efficiency of nursing staff, teachers and local government workers.

The Audit Commission's warning come in the wake of another threat issued by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) which forecasts 350,000 public sector jobs could be lost over the next five years, with as many as 30,000 job cuts in local authorities in the next year alone. Chief economist John Philpott says the recession will bring "a bloodbath in the public finances" forcing employers to slash their workforce. This could lead to "guerrilla war" in the workplace, characterised by repeated strike action, he warned. Many anarchists work in the public sector, especially local government, health and education.

Football fans do a 'G20' on RBS

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) received the G20 treatment for a second time as a group of angry Liverpool football supporters co-ordinated attacks on three branches in the early hours of the morning.

The fans attacked the banks, including RBS main flagship branch in Liverpool city centre, as a protest at the refinancing of a loan taken out by the club's American owners.

Supporters have become increasingly frustrated and unhappy with the way Liverpool Football Club is being financed and controlled and have been lobbying RBS to reconsider its financial commitment, effectively forcing the American duo to sell up.

When US billionaire businessmen George Gillett and Tom Hicks took over Liverpool

in 2007, it was with the promise they wouldn't burden the club with any debt – only to renege on the deal by securing a £350 million loan with RBS against the club, which is due for refinancing at the end of July. Many ordinary fans feel the businessmen are using the club to further their own financial concerns. RBS is the main banker to the club including all of its operating accounts, cash management, online banking, automated payments, and credit card processing.

Inspired by the direct action approach of anarchists during the G20 in The Square Mile a clandestine group of Liverpool fans attacked the banks, padlocking the doors to the main branch and plastering the building with posters reading: 'Closed. RBS say no to re-financing LFC'.

RBS, dubbed 'the peoples bank' by G20 protestors because of taxpayers money used to bail it out, was forced to take the unprecedented step of issuing a public statement in defence of its actions and reassure Liverpool fans of their financial intentions. Ironically auditors KPMG, the company used to swindle Visteon workers out of their redundancy, have expressed concerns over the level of debt being incurred after the club posted losses over £42 million last year.

The Spirit of Shankly, a group of Liverpool supporters who advocate public ownership of the club, and the country's first footballer supporters union, have been most vocal against the bank's financial dealings with the club's owners. They deny all knowledge of the attack.

IN BRIEF

ASBESTOS: In a typical case of local government incompetence, Fife Council has been fined £10,000 after 12 flats had to be evacuated when contractors disturbed brown asbestos while replacing water tanks.

Contractors moved the brown asbestos at a block of flats in Fraser Avenue, Inverkeithing, in November 2007.

At Dunfermline Sheriff Court, builder ECG Building Maintenance was fined £3,700. Both fines were discounted for earlier guilty pleas by both Fife Council and ECG Building Maintenance. Sheriff Ian Dunbar said "the major share of responsibility" fell with the council because it had details of different parts of the block on two records. The amazing result is rate payers are to pay extra to cover this as well as funding the court system for the privilege.

MORE WASTE: A project which involved sending out fake CVs in a bid to expose racism cost the taxpayer almost £170,000, the government has acknowledged.

As part of the scheme, civil servants submitted false job applications to see if employers discriminated against foreign-sounding names. The practice, known as 'matched CV testing', had been recommended by the Business Commission on Race Equality "to measure progress towards eliminating the ethnic minority employment gap". So while the government is doing bog all against racism, it can be congratulated on having already overcome prejudice against the blithely incompetent.

SEA ICE SHRINKS: The National Snow and Ice Data Centre reports Arctic ice extent in June 2009 was extremely close to the last two years, falling within 30,000 square kilometres (12,000 square miles) of the June extent in 2007 and 2008. The long-term trend indicates a decline of 3.3% per decade, an average of 40,100 square kilometres (15,500 square miles) of ice per year. Melting was particularly strong in the Laptev Sea off the north coast of Siberia.

PIRATE RADIO: As the 'paper that backs the pirates', *Freedom* is intrigued to learn that the *Digital Britain* report, published by the government on 15th June, recommended that all national radio broadcasters cease to broadcast on FM in 2015.

If the government accepts these recommendations it will leave only local community services on the analogue airwaves. This will mean that well-known frequencies such as 88-91FM (BBC Radio 2) and 106.2FM (Heart FM in London) will fall empty.

This is a big opportunity for pirate radio to move in to fill the void. "If an opening is available for any length of time, someone will take a run at it," believes Robbie Robinson, aka Robbie Dale, who set up Dublin pirate music station Sunshine 101 in September 1980.

Hartmann the Anarchist

If you thought Ursula Le Guin was the best of anarchist science fiction, wait till you read *Hartmann the Anarchist: or The Doom of the Great City*.

Hartmann is one hell of a guy. It was just his misfortune to be born ahead of his time. If in the summer of 2009 his airship, the *Attilla*, had appeared over London and blasted Parliament to smithereens before moving off to annihilate the bankers in the City, he would have been a national hero. Even more so if he'd have taken a few of the Met G20 police officers out en route. The country would have been at his feet. His analysis of the reasons to bomb the City of London show his prescient awareness of the evils globalisation years before anyone else.

His aim was to pierce the ventricles of the heart of civilisation, that blood that pumps the blood of capital everywhere, through the arteries of Russia, of Australia, of India, through the capillaries of the fur companies of North America, mining enterprises in Ecuador and the trading steamers of African rivers.

Echoing the old masthead of *Green Anarchist*, Hartmann wants nothing less than the 'destruction of civilisation' – achieved by pouring leaden death from the skies. No reformist he.

But Hartmann has secret helpers on the ground – Nechaev style conspirators numbering 12,000 in London alone. They have already blown up the Home Secretary's

house (Angry Brigade) and burned down half of rich Kensington.

There are of course ... ahem ... a few minor quibbles about Hartmann's class analysis – referring to the working class as "the swinish multitude" he's not particular if they perish also as they "have long colluded with the system". But this is to quibble in the face of genius – and anyway Hartmann is justifiably miffed with them for failing to rise up during his earlier assassination attempt on the Crown Prince on Westminster Bridge.

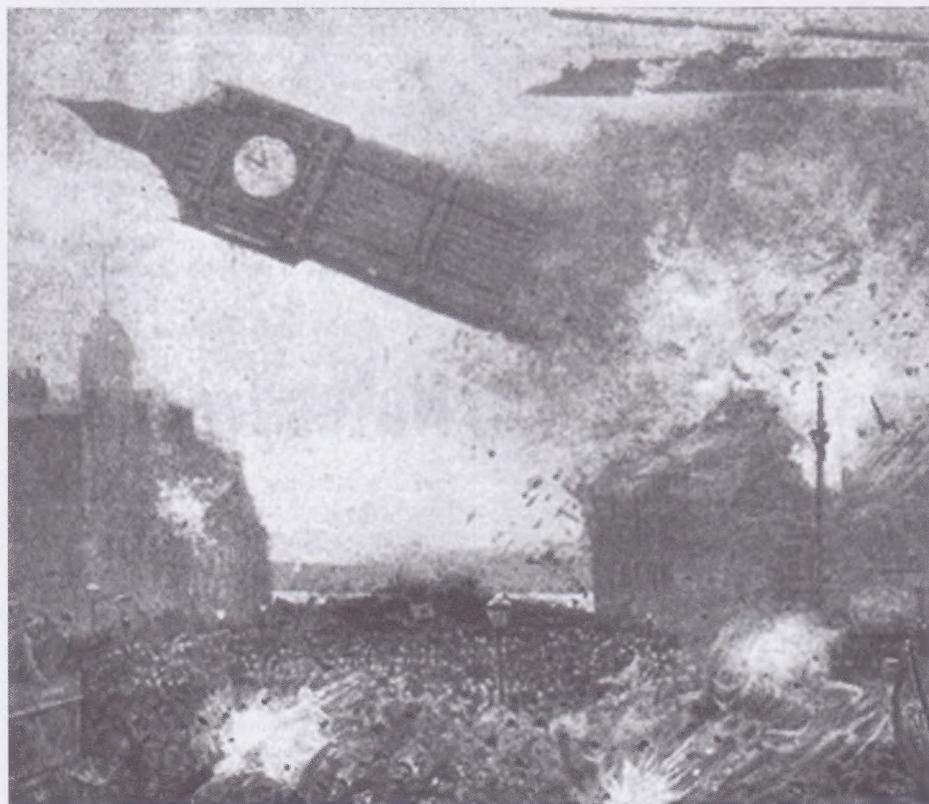
As with Emile Henri and Ravachol, there are no innocents for Rudolph Hartmann. Anyway I take it that Hartman's contempt for "the swinish multitude" is in fact nothing more than a rejection of consumerism!

But just relax and enjoy Parliament and the bankers in the City of London being annihilated by good old fashioned bomb wielding anarchists.

Hartmann the Anarchist was written by E. Douglas Fawcett when he was only 17 years old and wanting to take Jules Verne's Captain Nemo and Robur the Conqueror one stage further than Verne anticipated. First published in 1892, and not reprinted in full for over 100 years, this is a long lost must-read anarchist classic.

Hartmann the Anarchist will be republished in October by Tangent Books with new illustrations by Stanley Donwood.

Comrades, keep watching the skies.



Detail of 'Shelling the Houses of Parliament' from *Hartmann the Anarchist*, written by Edward Douglas Fawcett with illustrations by Frederick Thomas Jane.

INTERNATIONAL

IN BRIEF

GERMANY: Anarchists from Hamburg's autonomous scene battled police for six hours late last month in the trendy Schanzenviertel neighbourhood after a street fair. At least 67 rioters were arrested and 27 police officers injured.

GREECE: Violence broke out at an anti-racism demonstration on 7th July after police and far-right groups clashed with around 2,500 demonstrators.

Recently the Greek state and neo-nazis have intensified pressure on poor immigrants, running clearance operations and attempting to bar them from public spaces.

ITALY: The Italian parliament approved new laws on security, introducing explicitly racist rules on 4th July. Now any migrant who marries an Italian can get Italian citizenship only if he/she has been living in the country for two years. Weddings with 'illegal' migrants are not allowed. Illegal entry and stay in the country has become a criminal offence and will be punished with a fine between 5,000 and 10,000 Euros, together with repatriation.

PERU: Hundreds of poor, rural and indigenous pregnant women in Peru are dying because they are being denied the same health services as other women in the country, Amnesty International has concluded in a new report. The report highlights that pregnant women in Peru die because they face many barriers, including lack of access to emergency obstetric care, unavailability of information on maternal health and lack of health staff who can speak indigenous languages.

RUSSIA: Thirty-four miners in southern Russia's Rostov Region entered the Chikh coal mine yesterday morning and refused to come out until they were paid their wages. The miners claimed they were owed 21.5 million rubles (\$689,000) in back pay.

SOUTH AFRICA: Some 70,000 construction workers in South Africa been on indefinite strike, halting work on stadiums being built for the 2010 World Cup. Unions are threatening to continue the strike if their demands for a 13% wage increase are not met.

TAIWAN: Over 300 workers at water tank firm Hwata Vina in Ho Chi Minh City went on strike 3rd July after complaining about managers' draconian rules. Workers were permitted to go to the toilet just three times a day for five minutes each and would not get paid for periods when electricity was cut.

VATICAN CITY: Pope Benedict has called for the environment to become the world's highest priority and for Catholics to support the labour unions to help mitigate the exploitation of the poor. The letter didn't confirm whether the Vatican would be giving back any of its own wealth hoarded from thousands of years of religious tithing, or buying in new sources of energy with some of the spare cash.

LENS CAP THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY



The *Spirit of Humanity* is seen through barbed wire on its way to Gaza. The aid ship, organised by the Free Gaza group and the International Solidarity Movement, was boarded and its crew locked up as it attempted to run an Israeli blockade carrying toys and concrete. The 21 passengers who are languishing in Israeli jails as *Freedom* goes to press have called for support to go not to them, but to the 11,000 Palestinian political prisoners currently being held by Israel. In a statement, they said: "We implore all the good people around the world who have working so hard to secure the release of our friends to 'adopt' a Palestinian prisoner. We ask you to learn about the crisis and take on the cause of an individual prisoner as your own."

G8 Italy subdued affair

Thousands of demonstrators in the streets of earthquake-devastated l'Aquila forced the G8 attendees to call off their 'family photo' on 11th July amid security fears.

Reports of up to 5,000 people at the peaceful No Global rally and rumours of possible infiltration of the gathering saw governmental heads taken away by security and the process thrown into disarray.

The demo marked the high point of an otherwise subdued series of protests and scuffles at or around the summit, with smaller mobilisations taking place around Italy.

Earlier in the week, 21 arrests had been made Turin, Bologna, Padua and l'Aquila in operation Rewind, in an attempt to clear the streets of some of the region's known activists.

The next day, on 7th July, occupations began of buildings began in Palermo and Bologna in solidarity with the detained, before the main summit mobilisations began on 8th July. Clashes in Rome saw a further 38 people detained in clashes with the police.

Demos were held in Milan, Roma and Turin on 8th July and in more cities on 9th July, mostly in solidarity with those arrested, though a group of anti-racists also turned out in solidarity with migrants in front of the Ponte Galeria immigration prison.

- Ahead of the G8, there were clashes during protests against the expansion of a US military base in the northern city of Vicenza. No major injuries were reported.

Notes from the United States

Police brutality has been hitting the headlines in the south of the country recently.

In June, a 32 year old Utah man was killed by police using a controversial taser gun. Brian Layton Cardall was confronted after fleeing his vehicle near a busy road. Because Cardell had been struggling with his mental health, his wife had called the police.

When they found Cardall, a police officer used his taser, causing him to lose consciousness. He was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

Despite this murder, police in Texas later defended the brutal tasering of a woman aged 72 after pulling over her vehicle.

Kathryn Winkfein said she was stopped for exceeding the speed limit in a building zone by 15 mph.

Texas police insisted that the officer's actions were justified when a video of the assault began to circulate on the internet.

Also in Texas, Fort Worth police are being accused of an anti-gay raid forty years to the day after New York police raided the Greenwich Village gay bar the Stonewall Inn and set off an uprising that launched the modern gay and lesbian rights movement.

On the last Sunday in June, police raided a newly opened gay club, the Rainbow

Chocolate pain

Bosses are cracking down on wages and worker numbers despite recession boom

Despite surging demand for chocolate as people cut back on larger luxuries, confectionary and cocoa firms are imposing worldwide cuts, sparking widespread workplace clashes. Cadbury in particular is in the process of renegeing on pay deals and cutting hundreds of jobs despite a 30% growth in profits for 2009, while in Ivory Coast, producer of 40% of the world's cocoa, trade unionists have been arrested for taking unofficial strike action.

Representatives from five countries walked out of Cadbury's European Works Council talks on 9th July after it became clear that the company was reneging on its already weak pledge of a 2% pay rise for UK workers. The Unite union is threatening strike action, with one rep saying: "While chocolate sales and Cadbury directors salaries' appear to be recession proof, workers' wages are melting away."

Cadbury made bumper profits of £559 million last year and are on course to increase sales by another 4% by the end of 2009, with each member of staff producing some £15,000 in profits.

Unions across Europe are complaining that they are also facing pay freezes and cutbacks. Irish factory workers in particular have been told 220 jobs will go in Coolock in Dublin and Rathmore, Co Kerry. Irish factories produce Dairy Milk, Fruit & Nut, Time Out and Heroes. With similar interests and problems running through the sweets



giant's workforce, the door is potentially open for EU-wide action if Cadbury's various holdings can improve communications.

In Ivory Coast meanwhile, talks are ongoing over the final fate of 20 dockers who were detained for their role in unofficial strike action which held up transport of the country's cocoa crop.

They were leading figures in a strike by the National Collective of Dockers which saw the country's largest port in Abidjan shut down for 15 days last month.

The dock workers' union, which represents 80% of employees in the industry, downed tools on 3rd June. The dockers were protesting over the failure of their employer, BMOD, to honour an agreement negotiated on 10th May on pay and working conditions and have called for the dissolution of the organisation in charge of recruiting workers.

The union also reported threats to dismiss those who went on strike.

At present they are back at work as talks are ongoing, with workers having thus far won concessions that the arrestees would be released, fired dockers reinstated and scab workers let go.

Ivory Coast has seen rising worker militancy in recent years. There has been widespread campaigning against the use of child slave labour in the fields, and shipping employees in particular have repeatedly held up cocoa shipments.

In response the government has attempted to bring down harsh measures against unionists, claiming the cocoa industry should be exempt from industrial action.

Cocoa has been a major source of funding for the state and regional warlords. An investigation by Global Witness found that during the civil war of 2002, \$112 million was diverted towards war materiel by both sides from cocoa sales.

Notes from the United States

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Lounge, arresting seven people and briefly detaining others. One man was reportedly hospitalised with a brain haemorrhage after police threw him to the ground.

A new report from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs has found that the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people killed in bias-motivated attacks increased by 28% last year: the group documented 29 killings in 2008, the highest number recorded since 1999.

Meanwhile, information on far-right violence is actively being buried by elements of the press.

A nine-page report was recently released by The Department of Homeland Security. It warned of the potential for violence from right-wing (fringe) groups.

Right-wing pundits and politicians strongly criticised the Homeland Security secretary, Janet Napolitano, for releasing it.

Fox News' notorious Sean Hannity said: "The Department of Homeland Security's Dr. Dobson is warning law enforcement officials about the rise in right-wing extremist activity ... for example, they would define it as people that maybe think we're not controlling our borders, people that have pro-life bumper stickers."

To this Leonard Zeskind, one of the US's leading researchers on right-wing hate groups, responded: "[Although] the Department of Homeland Security did not make an analytical distinction between the types of white nationalists ... I think we can say that every time the government pinpoints the problem of racist, anti-Semitic, anti-choice violence, the perpetrators of it all scream, and the apologists for it all scream."

The result? The Justice Department went back on the report and withdrew it.

Louis Further

The 'jungle' at Calais

Raids have been launched into the 'jungle' area where migrants have been camped out in Calais.

The *La Voix Du Nord* newspaper said on 9th July that security forces had arrested 20 people of African origin following the 'demolition' of a squat in Gambetta Boulevard.

The paper noted: "At this rate, we should see the jungle landscape disappear soon".

The raids follow last month's No Borders protest camp in Calais. Around 1,000 people built links between local people and migrants, who have been vilified for trying to build lives in Europe. In response, police banned their literature, arrested participants and harassed campers. The camp noted: "The migrants are still there, as well as the police. The latter is destroying the migrant's squats. The people doing the food distribution need support during the summer. We still need to consolidate what's been started: crossborder organisation and solidarity."

FEATURE

Still fighting to create our own

Despite being 25 years old, the miners strike still casts a long and heavy shadow across the country's political landscape. In what was the longest overt expression of open class conflict in recent history generations on are still feeling the effects of the last heavy industry, bastion of militant working class solidarity, deliberately decimated by the representatives of the rich and powerful.

David Douglass, ex-miner, NUM branch delegate and strike activist, looks at two particular legacies, one positive, one negative, left by the destruction of the mining industry.

Robbing bastards

The scandal of MPs 'expenses', actually an undeclared, untaxed and secret second salary, rages on. You would think they'd been as brass necked as possible, but you would be wrong. The ongoing robbery of the miners' pensions by the government is a little known or publicised disgrace. When the NCB/British Coal was privatised, there were various rich pickings up for grabs. Not least of these was the MPS (Mineworkers' Pension Scheme) and other mining industry pension funds. The pension fund was one of the most secure and profitable in the world and the miners were not about to let it go to private speculators. The government gave us the option of them stepping in in the place of the NCB, except they wouldn't actually put any more money in, and neither would we, so the scheme would be closed.

Investments would be allowed to mature, every three years there would be a valuation – 50% would come to the pensioners, and 50% would go to them. So what exactly

would be their contribution? They would, they said, underwrite the scheme, they would make up any shortfall should the scheme ever go into deficit. We also thought the 50-50 arrangement was unfair and

The present has been taken from us; the past and the future, however, belong to us and we shall guard them jealously. You may disperse us from this spot, this moment in time, but our conviction shall remain wherever we go and in the generations of post-miners' children who follow us –

Hatfield Main NUM Branch final mass meeting statement, 1993, after the closure of the last pit in Durham

inappropriate to any risk they had to stand, but there weren't any options around, take it or leave it. The Labour Party, whilst in opposition, opposed the privatisation of the coal industry and the 50-50 pension arrangement. The NUM trustees opposed the scheme, but the scab UDM (Union of Democratic Mineworkers) who had been given seats on the MPS after the strike, voted along with the NCB as they always did and allowed the arrangement to be ratified.

As it turned out, the Tory government never got to rake in any of the money from the scheme as they were kicked out before the 1997 valuation. We looked forward to a fairer renegotiation of the scheme under the incoming New Labour government, as they had promised in opposition. Did it happen? Did it hell.

Over the years, they have never paid a penny piece into the scheme and have taken £4.1 billion from it. The scheme has only been in deficit once, which was in 2002, but they had previously insisted we ring-fence an Investment Reserve Fund from our own money to cover any possible deficits. The 2002 deficit was £390 million, which was then transferred from the Reserve Fund. In 2005 the MPS was back in surplus, which was £998 million. They then claimed back the £390 million into the Reserve Fund, but charged us interest for the privilege, actually taking out £540 million, and then had the audacity to take another 50% of the remaining surplus claiming a further £229 million, leaving us with £229 out of a surplus of £998 million.



Over 50,000 people descend on Durham to mark the

This fund, we shall recall, was set up and funded solely by the contributions of the miners, either directly through our own contributions or indirectly through the money we made for the NCB through our labour, although they actually last paid anything into it in 1987 using the accumulating surpluses as 'contribution holidays'. All of the money in the fund



| Valuation year | Labour governments rake off |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1996 | £742 million |
| 1997 | £525 million |
| 2002 | £390 million deficit |
| 2005 | £540 million pay back from above |
| | PLUS £229 million |

Government haul £4,140,197 billion

history



the 125th anniversary of annual Miners Gala

comes from investments of the miners' money. It was set up for miners' pensions. The mining communities, thanks to the years of pit closures and abandonment, are now the most impoverished areas of Britain. That this government can ruthlessly plunder the miners' pensions are a scandal equal to the 'expenses' pig trough. We should confront the bastards on this issue at every opportunity. It's time for the coal communities to relight that old spark and start engaging in direct action against the MPs, and government as a whole.

Durham Big Meeting

The 125th Durham Miners' Gala took place again on 11th July 2009, from early morning through the ancient northern city of Durham. The last Durham pit closed in the early 1990s – this was John Major's second wave onslaught following on Maggie's closure programme after the defeat of the 1984/85

strike. By the end of the 1980s, it dawned on them that they hadn't won, power generation was still based on coal, and coal was still dominated by the NUM despite the presence of their scab UDM 'union'.

The John Major programme, supported, let us recall, by the Lib-Dems, was the *coup de grace*. Today we have no pits whatsoever in Durham, Northumberland and Scotland, and only five in the rest of the country. Yet still the banners return, still the bandsmen play, still the pit folks and their relatives turn out in defiance and determination that this culture and the message of solidarity and socialism will not die. The Durham Banner scheme has seen, over the last ten years, dozens of old banners remade, re-commissioned and re-launched. There are ghost banners from collieries closed twenty and thirty years ago marching proudly back into Durham, proclaiming their history and their contribution to the struggle in days gone by.

The platform speakers are always varied, always picked by a ballot of the members – sometimes for friendship rather than agreement, one suspects. For this reason Dennis Skinner, a gala favourite, will be present again. He's a good speaker and tells a canny tale, but few are likely to his 'support the Labour Party' message these days. Bob Crow is likely to bat that ball firmly into the long grass.

There are few, if any, occasions in Britain where tens of thousands of ordinary working class folk sit down on the grass and listen to political speeches and union themes and perspectives, listening to leaders of the major unions. But they do at Durham. Times were when revolutionaries graced the platform, Kropotkin included, and *Freedom* circulated the crowds and the pit communities.

Durham is a great day, a big fun fare, plus all the thrills of the various left bookstalls, chips and toffee apples against the throb of bass drums and the rattling of platform speakers. It is at once inspiring, and sad. Sad because we are now a parade ground army when once these troops, men and women of the coalfields, were in active struggle against the state to challenge and chance society. That heartbeat is still alive,

We need to beat with its pulse. See you in Durham, next year.

David John Douglass has just published the second volume of his autobiography documenting his forty year life as militant working class miner. *The Wheel's Still in Spin*, which covers the volatile period from the end of the '60s to the coming to power of Thatcher, is published by Christie books and available at all good radical bookshops, including Freedom Bookshop. Volume one, *Geordies – Wa Mental*, is also available.



Dave Douglass

COMMENT

ABOUT FREEDOM

ANGEL ALLEY

At last the pointing is complete and we can look forward to a dry winter inside 84b. The scaffolding comes down next week (after you've read this) and we will have more space to hold outside events for the rest of the summer.

Shop sales have suffered a slump in June, only 85% up on last year, the worst month since we moved downstairs, so please keep buying the books. Remember that all titles can be posted to you free of charge and, in another groundbreaking technical innovation, we can now take book tokens.

Our neighbours at Aldgate press have just installed a brand new Heidelberg (that's a printing press). Work continues on the publishing programme and we should have the new edition of Malatesta's *Anarchy* out for the Bookfair in October. Also our comrades at Past Tense publishing have agreed to do a cover for a set of unbound copies of Berkman's *The Russian Tragedy*. Work is slower on the *Ego and Its Own*, but if you write a nice letter to Santa it may end up in your stocking for Crimbo.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To work out if your subscription is due for renewal, look at the number above your name on the address label. This issue is vol 70, no 13, so if your subscription runs out with this issue you'll have 7013 above your name. If the number is 7013 or less, then your subscription is now due for renewal. See page 16 for the current subscription rates and a renewal form or, if you don't want to worry in the future about remembering to renew your subscription to *Freedom*, just ask us to send you a standing order form by emailing subs@freedompress.org.uk or you can write to us at 'Subscriptions', Freedom, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will be dated 1st August 2009 and the last day to get copy to us for that issue will be Thursday 23rd July. You can send your articles to us by email to copy@freedompress.org.uk or by post addressed to 'The Editors', Freedom, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

A sideways look

by SVARTFROSK

On a recent visit to Sainsbury's, I noticed a sign on the tills. 'This store will shortly be moving to a Challenge 25 policy'. What this means is that if you look under 25, you will be asked for identification before you are allowed to buy alcohol. A quick internet search showed that Asda and Morrisons already operate this policy and Tesco's have introduced it.

There are two issues with this, from my point of view. Firstly it is creating a need for identification papers where there was none before, thus giving justification for the government's unpopular ID card scheme. And secondly, it is a reflection of the ridiculous relationship we have with alcohol in this country.

The supermarkets have resorted to the scheme after the government started prosecuting them for selling alcohol to under 18s. Tesco's got fined £6,000 after selling booze to under-age buyers in Blackpool. There is little doubt that trading standards employ older-looking 17 year olds to try and trap pubs and shops into selling illegally; it is much easier to entrap than tackle the sort of consumer issue that requires a lot more evidence being gathered.

I don't generally have a lot of sympathy for supermarkets, particularly on the loss-leading sales of beer which are helping kill pubs, but with 'Challenge 25' the government are wrong. The risk-averse approach taken by big organisations to pettifogging bureaucratic rules means they have little choice but to comply. A huge section of society will now be expected to carry ID just to buy booze, even if they are a young-

looking 30 years of age. This sort of policy never seems to work the other way round, does it? No one asks someone buying a train ticket if they look a bit too young for an adult fare.

Of course, if you need to prove your age, well, perhaps the government's shiny new Identity Card will help. That nice Mr Johnson has just said it won't be compulsory. The card part anyway. All the rest will and don't bet on the Tories ditching the National Identity Register.

The government and cops will say the measure, and similar ones applied to pubs, will stop rowdiness and violence connected to drink. It won't – it just means that the under-age drinkers will hone their furtiveness skills, find an older mate or acquire some false ID. The more false IDs in circulation the better.

That the government can bounce retailers in this way (yet can't when it comes to environmental protection or not ripping off their suppliers) shows up the schizophrenic relationship we have with alcohol. Apart from Muslims and teetotallers, I don't know anyone who didn't start drinking alcohol before they were 18. I first started regularly going to the pub when I was 15. Today's 15 year olds are being told they have to wait ten years before they can buy booze without a challenge. It's not going to stop them, they'll just have to be more enterprising in getting round the restrictions. As well as learning to use their initiative, they'll also learn a healthy disrespect for the stupid laws made by people who would never have kept to them.



LETTERS AND COMMENT

The future of Freedom

Regarding the proposed changes to *Freedom*, a monthly with quality articles is a good idea. The news is nearly always well out of date by the time we get it, so a more discursive paper is better. If it saves money even better.

Richard Alexander

A modest solution

*A time will come soon
maybe this moment hence
when dull madness is usurped
by outrageous common sense*

As an anarchist I welcome the outrageous common sense of the current whatever-it's-called – 'credit crunch' or 'economic down turn' or 'recession' or 'depression' or 'slump'. Whatever it is, bring it on. It is sanity. House prices going down – sanity. Banks, estate agents, purveyors of complicated financial instruments, all going bust – sanity! Candyfloss industries, venture capitalists and the dodgy insurance companies going bust – sanity. Motor car manufacturers, airlines, superfluous shopping chains, all them going down – glorious sanity. Truth is, we don't need any of them.

It's so refreshing to witness the economy righting itself and to know that, for a brief period at least, politicians have a chance to embrace reality and legislate accordingly.

They won't of course, because they are looking through the wrong end of the telescope. They see only problems, not opportunities, and the only direction they want to take is straight back to where they came from. Back to fear, greed, consumerism and competition. Back to alienation and death culture. Or translated into the polite language of BBC News programmes – economic growth, a thriving housing market and full employment.

The route back to the madness is the Brown/Obama pan-governmental solution of borrowing vast amounts to shore up the banks and failing industry; ironically nationalising the commanding heights of the economy.

The only positive thing about this ludicrous so-called masterly solution is that it has revealed the fact that they can always borrow pots of money if and when they choose – they simply borrow it from the future. All our futures to be precise. Which means that the hundreds of billions of debt that western governments have now landed themselves in represents a truly vast amount of unnecessary work that has not yet been done. Hah! So there are jobs.

Last week I gave an old electric fan to an anarchist who was squatting with his mates in the back extension of an empty shop in Willesden. He told me that they had customised the place and were living there in relative comfort. I wished him luck and told him to keep his head down.

On a very small scale this example of do-it-yourself direct action politics is an eminently appropriate grass roots response to the current economic situation. On a national level, however, it's difficult to see how any government would condone such initiatives, let alone encourage them, but that's what has got to happen. Housing is the obvious and appropriate place start – it's where the current situation supposedly went tits-up – and it's a no-brainer to any anarchist, squatter or anyone else who knows just how liberating cheap plentiful housing can be to the mind body and spirit.

The real solution then is to take the speculation out of property, particularly housing – all the other elements needed to complete the equation and create thriving local economies are in place.

Out there in Noddyland there are vast numbers of unemployed building workers, vast tracts of empty residential, office, shop and warehouse property, vast numbers of people either homeless or living in inappropriate housing situations and, to top it all, there's still prohibitively high rents and house prices. And of course there are vast amounts of people living in fear of losing the job that pays their rent or mortgage – their death debt.

Plentiful living accommodation means low house prices and low rents. It puts more money into people's pockets which can create a thriving local economy. It can also ease the overwhelming tyranny of the work ethic, as if raising children, creating a home

and making an active contribution to the community wasn't work enough.

Tony Allen

Tony Allen argues these ideas and more at Hyde Park Speakers' Corner at 3pm most Sundays. His book *Summer in the Park* is available from Freedom Press, £8.50 post free.

Boosting Freedom's Circulation

For boosting *Freedom*'s circulation, here's our double or quits plan.

While it's lovely that we have lots of subscribers to *Freedom*, they are for the most part already anarchists (box and branch excepted) and our aim is to spread anarchist ideas as widely as possible. So, if you are interested in flogging the dead horse that is the oldest English language anarchist newspaper, let us know and we can send you a bundle.

The deal is simple, you just give us 50% of the money from those you sell. As a test to see what's possible, we are sending two copies of this issue to all our UK subscribers which you can sell or give away as you see fit. As the postally minded may know two copies cost the same (47p) as one to send, so it's not an extravagant marketing loss leader. Let us know how you get on. In the immortal words of Cleopatra to Mark Anthony, 'if you enjoyed it, tell your friends'.

The editors

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GETTING ACTIVE

PRISON NEWS

Private prisons

Figures obtained by Channel 4 under a recent Freedom of Information Act application show that private prisons are performing significantly worse than their public sector equivalents. Overall performance figures based on the Government's performance ratings (a rating of 4 equalling 'exceptional performance' and 1 'serious concern') show that in September 2008 private run prisons rated an average 2.7 points against 2.83 for the public sector. By December last year the gap had widened further, with private prisons falling to 2.6 against 2.85 for public prisons. In separate figures, the numbers of complaints upheld against prison staff in the private sector was 5.8 per prison whereas it was only 3.11 in public jails.

Needless to say, the worst behaving private prison was the G4S-run HMP Rye Hill, a well known basket-case amongst the private sector nicks, whose regime has received consistent criticism since it opened in 2001. It has also been the scene of three prisoners' deaths and at the inquest held earlier this year of Michael Bailey, found hanged in 2005, the jury found that the prison had failed in relation to every single aspect of Michael's care and there had been a "failure on the part of all staff to take responsibility for ensuring [his] safety".

These figures throw into sharp relief Labour and the Tories commitment to the expansion of the prison estate and the building of new PFI prisons. Since coming to power, New Labour has introduced 3,600 new criminal offences, 1,500 of which you can be imprisoned for, and the prison population has risen by 36%. They have added eight more PPP and PFI prisons to the three built or ordered under the Thatcher government (with three more being built by the Scottish government). These hold 11% of all UK prisoners (11% in England and Wales and 18% in Scotland). And both parties have announced further private sector driven expansions to the prison estate in England and Wales.

Angola Three

Herman Wallace, member of the Angola Three now in his 32nd year inside, has recently been moved.

Herman and his comrade Albert Woodfox formed the first Black Panther chapter in Angola. Both were also active in campaigns of resistance against prisons conditions and were framed for the killing of a prison guard in 1972, on the evidence of paid informants, in an effort to stop their activism.

Despite constant brutalisation and many years in solitary, they have fought on and have sought to overcome their convictions, both having won significant judicial decisions in their favour in the last couple of years.

- Herman Wallace #76759, Elaine Hunt Correctional Center, Unit 5, E-Tier, PO Box 174, St Gabriel, LA 70776, USA.



- Newcastle Calling. People from the North East are invited to get involved in a newly launched group supporting people dealing with debt, bailiffs, and money lenders. The Tyneside Solidarity Group has been formed by anarchists (including members of the Anarchist Federation and Liberty & Solidarity), independent socialists and trade union activists from around the region with the intention of moving beyond what the established charities and legal advice centres can provide by using direct action and mutual aid during the current economic recession.

Those interested in being active in the area should email: tynesideagainstdebt@gmail.com.

- The housing and community activists who squatted the second home of married New Labour MP's Alan and Ann Keen as a protest against the greed and corruption of politicians following the expenses scandal, are in need of support after a repossession order was issued by Brentford Magistrates Court.

The activists (pictured above) intend to stay in the Keen's 'family home' paid for out of taxpayer's money and encourage as many people as possible to go down, a warm welcome is guaranteed.

The address is 38 Brook Road South, Brentford, TW8 0NN. The group can be contacted on 07549160296.

- In light of the recent racist attacks on the Roma families living in Belfast, the Belfast branch of Workers Solidarity Movement have organised a day of workshops and discussions covering such topics as the tasks facing anarchists in Ireland, combating racism and the rise of the far right., organising for a free society without bosses and politicians, as well as a report back of the ongoing struggle against the Shell gas pipeline at Rosport.

Saturday 18th July at Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre 45/47 Lower Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FG – refreshments and literature will be available.

- A new anarchist initiative has emerged in the south coast region. Portsmouth Anarchist Collective have come together from a different range of political experiences, from animal rights campaigns and hunt sabbing to anti-capitalism and anti-war demonstrations, to organise themselves as a collective to campaign locally and nationally on issues that interest them.

Their intention is to meet regularly and develop a solid activist base and create a local presence in the area. To people who wish to get involved they meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday at The Deco Pub, 128 Elm Grove, Southsea, PO5 1LR, if you're interested. Or check their website for updates and further activities: <http://www.myspace.com/portsmouthac>

Two degrees or climate sleaze

The G8 leaders have made a breakthrough agreement on climate change. It is to be limited to two degrees centigrade. Putting aside for the moment that they have been unable to agree how this is to be achieved, let's look first at what this sound bite means and if it makes sense.

Where's zero?

People-made climate change is taken as starting with the widespread use of fossil fuels with the industrial revolution starting at the end of the eighteenth century. Fortunately accurate thermometers had been available since the seventeenth century and the longest continuous record of measured surface air temperatures in the world exists for a region representative of the English Midlands – known as the Central England Temperature record. Daily records extend back to 1772 and monthly records to 1659, so the average temperature before 1850 is taken as a starting point. Global temperatures now have risen by about 0.8° Celsius from this point.

Parts per million of Carbon Ton Equivalents

Carbon dioxide is usually measured in parts per million in the atmosphere. Today it is around 390, before the Industrial Revolution it was 280 and fifteen thousand years ago, in the depths of the ice age with the world five degrees colder than now, it was 180. Alternatively it can be expressed as tons of carbon dioxide or carbon, 12/44ths of the former. One billion tons of carbon is around 450 parts per million.

Ice core records show that in the past carbon dioxide levels and temperature have gone hand in hand. This is a very important in confirming the theoretical belief that carbon dioxide level can be used to predict temperature rises. There is a big problem though. The ice core records show the earth being around 3° hotter than the pre-industrial period at today's level of carbon dioxide. This can be explained by there being a time lag between the carbon dioxide getting into the atmosphere and the full effects of its warming to occur as the Earth like a giant kettle takes time to warm up.

However it does look worrying for the two degree plan,

Positive feedbacks and Tipping Points
The significance to the two degree target is that it's taken as the maximum rise possible without crossing the tipping point for runaway climate change. Temperature rise caused by humans has two elements: the increase in greenhouse gases emitted by human action and the environment's response to these emissions. So far the environment has saved our bacon absorbing around half of the gases humans have



churned out. This is because the extra carbon dioxide in the air stimulates growth in plants, both on land and sea. However as it gets hotter the changes caused are expected to add rather than put the brakes on temperature rise. There are three major processes at work.

1. *Tropical deforestation.* The increase in world temperatures is likely to cause a drying out of equatorial regions and in particular the Amazon rainforest. In 1997 major fires in Indonesia caused a sharp jump in global carbon dioxide levels, nearly doubling the annual rise in carbon dioxide. Were something similar to happen to the Amazon basin, the effect would be far greater.

2. *Loss of Arctic sea ice.* Ice reflects sunlight while open water absorbs its energy. The result is that as sea ice declines year by year more energy is absorbed, raising temperatures and speeding melting. Until 2007 predictions were that it would not be until 2070 that the Arctic would be ice-free in summer – now few scientists give it 10 years. In itself this will not be catastrophic, but it directly fuels the third and biggest climate feedback.

3. *Methane releases.* Methane is a much more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide but up to now that hasn't been a problem because there is much less of it and, although its level has risen since the industrial revolution, over the last 10

years it has stabilised. But there are two very large sources of methane whose release may be triggered by climate change: frozen ground in the Arctic and methane clathrates which are frozen under the sea bed. Both types of methane have been monitored as increasing in the Arctic in recent years but the eventual possible release and its rate of acceleration remain imponderables.

With no one process determining the tipping point of meltdown Earth, the actual point of no return remains unclear – we may have already passed it. Expressing it as a temperature rather than a carbon dioxide equivalent level is a dangerous decision because of the well known time delay factor.

The scientific jury is still out on whether two degrees is the real tipping point for runaway climate change but it's rapidly achieving a political hegemony. The reason is that it is a target that looks achievable and the danger of it breaking appears unlikely, certainly during any incumbent politicians term of office.

Recommended reading

The Last Generation by Fred Pearce, £8.99, is a good summary of the present situation by a leading journalist who was among the first to highlight the issue with his *Turning Up The Heat* back in 1989. *Funny Weather* by Kate Evans, £7.99, is a short entertaining guide in cartoon form, and written by a real activist to boot.

REVIEWS

WHAT'S ON

JULY

23rd to 27th Peace News summer camp near Faringdon in Oxfordshire, call 0845 4582564 or see <http://peacenewscamp.wordpress.com/>

AUGUST

1st Musical protest against the arms fair at the ExCel Centre, Victoria Dock Road, London SE16 1XL, from 2pm until 5pm, call 07513 792705 for more information. 18th to 24th Earth First! Summer Gathering, ecological direct action without compromise – five days of workshops, skill sharing and planning action, plus low-impact living without leaders – at a location in Cumbria, see earthfirst.org.uk or email sumergathering@earthfirst.org.uk

22nd Violent London: 2000 Years of Riots, Rebels and Revolts – Clive Bloom charts the story of London through centuries of popular insurrection and protest, a story of political activism expressed in street fighting and slum warfare, in assassination and bombing, at Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, from 7pm until 8.30pm, see housmans.com for more.

26th until 2nd September Climate Camp 2009, see climatecamp.org.uk for more. 29th A historical walk through the radical Jewish East End with David Rosenberg, for more information see housmans.com or email nik@housmans.com.



SUNDAY 26TH JULY 12 NOON

SEPTEMBER

5th Musical protest against the arms fair at the ExCel Centre, Victoria Dock Road, London SE16 1XL, from 2pm until 5pm, call 07513 792705 for more information.

OCTOBER

1st Bath Activist Network meeting from 7.30pm until 9pm downstairs at the Hobgoblin, James Street, Bath, see myspace.com/bathactivistnetwork for more or get in touch at bathactivistnetwork@yahoo.co.uk.

24th London Anarchist Bookfair at Queen Mary & Westfield College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, from 10am until 7pm, see anarchistbookfair.org.uk for more.

MAGAZINES

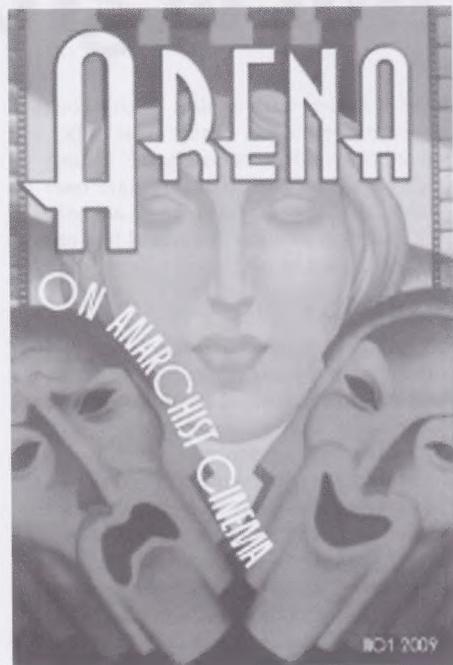
Arena 1: On Anarchist Cinema

Guest edited by Richard Porton
Christie Books, Read and Noir & PM Books, 168 pages, £7.50 / \$14.00

Conceived as a successor to the *Cienfuegos Anarchist Review* of fond memory, co-published by Stuart Christie and Ramsay Kanaan's new imprint PM Books, and edited by the author of the excellent *Film and the Anarchist Imagination*, this collection of essays promised to be a good read, and overall it delivers.

The articles split into two sections, one dealing with the early years of anarchist cinema, the other on present day anarchist film practice. Inevitably, with a multitude of authors and sources there is some unevenness, but all the items have something interesting to say. The historical articles focus on the way that the anarchist and syndicalist movements approached cinema, turning from an ideological critique to an appreciation of the ways the technology and the audiences that had been created provided an opportunity for anarchist propaganda.

One fascinating article considers the way the anarchist movement dealt with cinema during the Spanish Civil War. What this clearly shows is the way in which differing economic and political needs pulled the movement's relationship with cinema in conflicting directions, all the time subject to wider political and economic forces. The economic arguments – the need to raise funds for the war effort and continued film production, and to pay the wages of those who worked in film distribution – made the showing of Hollywood blockbusters (when available) a vital source of revenue. Yet the movement wanted production of anarchist themed material for propaganda purposes, both internally and for international use. There were also conflicts in film production, between 'directors' wanting total control and those anarchists wanting a more egalitarian approach, where people with little actual experience were involved, often resulting in poorly made films which audiences had little interest in watching. Even the employment of actors was problematic, with various dubious but respected actors being used in spite of their political sympathies, which were hardly republican, let alone anarchist. The organisational changes, clearly displayed in wonderfully bureaucratic charts showing the



relationships between the various aspects of cinema and entertainment generally, are also interesting, reflecting also the changing balance of forces within republican Spain as the war went on.

The Spanish Civil War is also the topic of one of two specific film discussions: a close look at the feature film *Libertarias* (1996) documenting the lives of women ostensibly part of the Mujeres Libres movement. The reviewer is not impressed.

Also discussed is a 1980 Greek anarchist film, *O Megalexandros*. More topical is the article on Police Watch in Los Angeles, especially in light of the G20 events in London and the use of mobile phone technology to capture police attacks on demonstrators and passers-by. There's also a short history of anarchist film festivals, a film on a New Zealand punk who blew himself up in an attack on a police computer centre, and an item on current anarchist video practice.

All in all this is very interesting first issue. Gripe include some minor proof-reading errors in one article, and the several pages of slogans, etc., that were neither particularly amusing nor useful. Some indication of the theme of the next issue, so people could submit ideas for articles, would have been helpful. But overall well worth getting and reading.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- Tory housing spokesman Grant Shapps. Talk about brass neck!
- The fourth option is direct investment in council housing – all the other options are forms of privatisation (ALMO, PFI and stock transfer). The government has finally conceded that direct investment is a good idea.
- It is a capital A in a circle – see <http://media.journalinteractive.com/images/ANARCHY03G.jpg>
- Harold H Thompson, anarchist and jailhouse lawyer. He expressed a wish to have his ashes scattered in Ireland, where his parents came from.

Mutualist aid

**Larry Gambone argues
anarchists of any stamp could
learn something from
Organization Theory**

The latest work by Kevin Carson, expands many of the themes found in his groundbreaking *Studies in Mutualist Political Economy* published in 2004. In *Organization Theory*, Carson first examines the literature on the economics of scale and finds the giant corporation to be highly inefficient. State intervention is the factor that allows the corporation to overcome this disadvantage. He next exposes the different varieties of government policies which gave rise to and aided the growth of economic centralisation and giantism.

In Part Two he examines the systemic effects and in Part Three examines the internal effects of top-down organisation and centralisation. There are three major problems: 1) the problem of having accurate knowledge, 2) the problem of economic calculation given inaccurate knowledge, 3) authoritarian irrationality and internal crises. He also tears into management fads and other attempts to reform the managerial system.

Decentralist alternatives to capitalism and authoritarian management are discussed in Part Four. These involve the abolition of state-granted privilege and the dissolution of the state into society. The potential for a libertarian economy that lies within the coming Peak Oil crisis and the new technologies and systems that make capitalism obsolete are examined, as are worker cooperatives and the provision of social services without the state.

Carson comes from a mutualist anarchist perspective. But his critique of capitalism and the alternatives he presents are useful and applicable to the entire spectrum of anarchist and libertarian socialist thought. It is a devastating examination of the arguments put forth by capitalism's 'libertarian', liberal and neo-liberal apologists. This is truly a book that no anarchist or socialist should be without.

Some highlights from *Organization Theory*:

Mass production flooded America with goods, destroying local manufacturing, and creating a problem of over-production. To sell all these products, the 'push model' of marketing with advertising, packaging and branding was created. The Sloan System of management at GM, adopted in the 1920s, put manufacturing second, marketing first. Thus production was subservient to a marketing plan or strategy. Hence, contrary to the apologists of corporatism, the corporate economy is a *planned economy*.

The plutocratic system developed originally



as the new capitalist class amalgamated with the land owners. Its legal basis lies with the creation of 'artificial property rights' created by government. Natural property rights involve use – working vacant land, for example. "Natural property rights reflect scarcity, while artificial property rights create it." Since land has been expropriated by landlords, it is very difficult for workers to create wealth on their own. "Artificial property rights in land give the proprietor property rights in the labour of others. Capitalism could not exist without artificial property rights."

The guru of neo-liberalism, Friedrich Von Hayek, claimed that central state planning cannot work well due to problems of knowledge. Carson responds, "if this is a point for the market system against state planning, it is also a point for the market system against the internal hierarchy of the corporation". Ludwig Von Mises, believed that double-entry bookkeeping solved all managerial problems. So why not a centrally planned economy, if *all* managerial problems are solved, asks Carson.

The highly authoritarian nature of Mises' 'libertarianism' is revealed in the following quote: "[Corporate managers] ... have the courage to tell the masses what no politician tells them; you are inferior and all the

improvements in your conditions ... you owe to the effort of men who are better than you". If hierarchy works so well, why not put the CEOs in charge of a centrally planned economy? But in the real world that exists outside of the brain farts of economists and management gurus, "hierarchy is a primitive mechanism for getting people to perform tasks which they have no rational interest in performing".

Steam and water power concentrated industry for obvious reasons. Electricity sent by power lines could be used anywhere and thus allowed for decentralised and small scale production. According to Carson, 10,000 people could be self-sufficient with no factory larger than 100 employees. But the corporate structure refused to go that route. "The system selects against simple technologies ... in favour of complex technologies that can be safely wielded by a priesthood." Furthermore, massive state intervention "might also have tipped the balance between alternative forms of productive technology".

Apologists for corporate capitalism reject small scale and worker-managed production. They claim workers have shorter time horizons than capitalists, which must be the bad joke of the century, coming from people whose time horizon is the next quarterly profit page 16 ►►



Review

◀ page 15

statement. Small farming is strawmanned as being like subsistence farming as it was, not how it would have been minus rents, enclosures and state support for agribusiness, not to mention innovations like intensive gardening, composting, hydroponics, etc.

What hinders the development of human-scale and anti-authoritarian alternatives is not a lack of organisations, but an overabundance of them. A way to overcome capitalist hegemony in the cooperative/social economy is to create linkages between the organisations – “a need to start functioning as a cohesive counter-economy”. In spite of the problems of realisation, it is increasingly impossible for capitalism to prevent people turning to small

scale and household production. Ever more people are living unplugged and off the grid.

The present economy is fundamentally *state capitalist*, and as libertarians it is our objective to dismantle the state, and with it, the corporatist economy. But attacking any aspect of the state must not be our goal. Dismantle first the structures that facilitate exploitation. “Evaluating the functions of the state in terms of the class purpose they serve makes it easier to understand the importance of dismantling them in the proper order.” When the working population is free from exploitation, then the existing social welfare measures can be converted into forms of non-governmental mutual aid.

Organization Theory – A Libertarian Perspective by Kevin Carson, published by Booksurge.

THE QUIZ

- Which radical firebrand said recently that “Housing waiting lists are at a record high level because of Labour’s historic failure to build enough social housing.”
- In terms of council housing, what is the fourth option and why is it an issue?
- What is unusual about the logo of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, which runs elections in the state?
- Which anarchists ashes were scattered on Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland, in June of this year?

Answers on page 14

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ate our own history



Over 50,000 people descend on Durham to mark the 125th anniversary of annual Miners Gala

This fund, we shall recall, was set up and funded solely by the contributions of the miners, either directly through our own contributions or indirectly through the money we made for the NCB through our labour, although they actually last paid anything into it in 1987 using the accumulating surpluses as 'contribution holidays'. All of the money in the fund

| Valuation year | Labour governments rake off |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1996 | £742 million |
| 1997 | £525 million |
| 2002 | £390 million deficit |
| 2005 | £540 million pay back from above |
| | PLUS £229 million |
| Government haul £4,140,197 billion | |

comes from investments of the miners' money. It was set up for miners' pensions. The mining communities, thanks to the years of pit closures and abandonment, are now the most impoverished areas of Britain. That this government can ruthlessly plunder the miners pensions are a scandal equal to the 'expenses' pig trough. We should confront the bastards on this issue at every opportunity. It's time for the coal communities to relight that old spark and start engaging in direct action against the MPs, and government as a whole.

Durham Big Meeting

The 125th Durham Miners Gala took place again on 11th July 2009, from early morning through the ancient northern city of Durham. The last Durham pit closed in the early 1990s – this was John Major's second wave onslaught following on Maggie's closure programme after the defeat of the 1984/85

strike. By the end of the 1980s, it dawned on them that they hadn't won, power generation was still based on coal, and coal was still dominated by the NUM despite the presence of their scab UDM 'union'.

The John Major programme, supported, let us recall, by the Lib-Dems, was the *coup de grace*. Today we have no pits whatsoever in Durham, Northumberland and Scotland, and only five in the rest of the country. Yet still the banners return, still the bandsmen play, still the pit folks and their relatives turn out in defiance and determination that this culture and the message of solidarity and socialism will not die. The Durham Banner scheme has seen, over the last ten years, dozens of old banners remade, re-commissioned and re-launched. There are ghost banners from collieries closed twenty and thirty years ago marching proudly back into Durham, proclaiming their history and their contribution to the struggle in days gone by.